

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

SGA Award	1
Health & Career	2
Inside Scoop	2
ALANA Clubs & Orgs	3
Calendar	4
In the News	5
MSA	6

SPA's DIVA
Read more
pg.2

MLK, Jr.
Forgotten
at
Skidmore?
Read pg. 4

dr. MLK, jr. (1929-1968)



Black History Month @ SKIDMORE

In Our Family: A Touring 20-Photo Exhibit

In Our Family is a touring photo-text exhibit created by the award-winning Family Diversity Projects, Inc. With photos by Gigi Kaeser and interviews by Rebekah Boyd, Peggy Gillespie, and Jean Beard, this exhibit celebrates families of every kind, including:

- Interracial families
- Lesbian and Gay Parented families



"In Our Family"

An interracial family is portrayed.

- Interfaith families
- Immigrant families

Each family photograph is accompanied by the words of parents and children in these families who speak candidly about life. Together, the images and the text reveal the common thread present in this tapestry of families:

LOVE. ★

(Sponsored by Jewish Student Life)

An Introduction: Tim Harper

Timothy L. Harper is currently a visiting instructor in the Management and Business Department at Skidmore who has caught the attention of multicultural students because of his efforts at engaging them with the community.

Whether it is aiding Admissions with recruitment of students of color or enjoying the incoming HEOP students in the summer, Prof. Harper is intent on helping and being an instrumental part of the diverse community at Skidmore. Especially through

his diversity-related classes (Identity and Opportunity and Managing Diversity in the Workplace) in which he has taught well over 100 Skidmore students, he succeeds.

In Prof. Harper's short period of time at Skidmore, he has served the multicultural and intercultural communities well. In the Fall term, he brought the MSA director, Ms. Kimberly Erwin to the Great Meadows Prison (in Comstock) where he volunteers as a mentor. There Ms. Erwin met with the African

New!
SGA
Diversity
Award
Coming Soon...

made up of inmates of color and had an hour long discussion on topics centered on being black in America and the world.

As the Assistant Pastor of New Jerusalem Church, there is no doubt about his ability to advise and inspire-which is exactly what MOCHA (see pg. 5) needs in an advisor. ★

Cultural Organization of prison

HEALTH DIVA...saved by ALANA students!

This is how the headline can read next Fall with the increase in the number of ALANA (African American, Latin/Hispanic American, Asian American, and Native American) students of color being admitted and attending Skidmore.

How does this work, you ask? Research. As Skidmore's administration is rightly concerned with the extreme alcohol consumption by students before and during large Skidmore sponsored gatherings, there is a real chance for events like DIVA, with attendance overflowing its venues and the policing of alcohol impossible with the too few providing supervision, to no longer be operable. Research out suggests that binge-drinking happens less often when there is a greater diversity in population of students. So more diversity, less Booze equals DIVA 2004!

"Less Diversity, More Booze? Binge-Drinking Study Looks at College Demographics" is an article published online at www.washingtonpost.com and written by Darryl Fears, a Washington

Post staff writer. In his article, Fears mentions a Harvard University study showing how "binge drinking by college students was significantly lower on campuses with more female and more black, Asian and other minority undergrads."

The study must be meritorious as it was published in the November 2003 issue of the American Journal of Public Health. In it Fears notes that "The Harvard study analyzes data from 114 colleges included in nationwide College Alcohol Study surveys of 1993, 1997, 1999 and 2001." The specifics shows "on campuses that had 21% or more minority representation, 44% were heavy drinkers. The number rose to 53% on campuses with less diversity."

Of course, a greater concern than that of saving an event, even DIVA, is student health. Excessive drinking is deadly. Still, when the idea of affirmative action is waning in support around the country, it is necessary to make visible the positive aspects of

diversity and how it enables colleges to thrive...not only for student engagement in the classroom but also in, co-curricular activities.

DIVA 2004? It is in the hands of Admissions (read below). ★

Inside Scoop Admission's ALANA Mission

The Admissions Office at Skidmore is great at attracting ALANA students to campus. There are always a good turn out at the Fairs that take place several times in the Fall.

Whether it is the hiring of ALANA alumni (Nat Smitobol in 2003) as admissions counselors or the creation of new avenues of recruitment of ALANA students, the admissions office is working diligently to increase the population of students at Skidmore as diverse in culture as they are geographically.

One example of their efforts is the change of venue for the hosting of high school counselors for an ALANA dinner in Rhineback, NY. Along with his colleagues, Mary Lou Bates, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, and John Young, Director of Admissions, Nat Smitobol hosted counselors from several Mid-Hudson high schools. Several others (see inset) joined them for an enjoyable evening in which the counselors became aware of the varied ways their students would enjoy a cultural connection at Skidmore.

"The dinner went better than expected," shared Smitobol, "already we have applications from their students." (Diva?...Maybe.) ★

Joining the Admissions team for recruitment in Fall 2003

ALANA students:

Jonathan Vallejo, Tony Lu, Marleny Diaz, and Eva Christiansen.

HEOP Asst. Director, Monica Minor and MSA Director, Kimberly Erwin represented their offices.

CAREER Saludos Hispanos

Get Rich with Integrity is the title of the article, written by Vinnie Roazzi, that stresses what "achieving success really means."

What does success really mean? As students, it may mean the completion of a class with an average grade or above or one may rate the classroom experience (group contact, interesting lectures, lessons learned, etc.) to determine their success. Roazzi writes, of a multicultural student with the feeling that she or he must "shoulder" one's entire culture or family heritage on one's back, "[He or she] may find that community awareness for work accomplished is success.

ALANA students at Skidmore may certainly have already have been defined as "successful" by family and community members by just getting accepted and graduating from school. Though, since there is life beyond Skidmore, each student must search to redefine success (see inset).

R U Successful? Do you:

1. Know yourself?
2. Focus?
3. Properly set goals for yourself?
4. NOT buy into Society's "hype?"
5. Know there is no chance...no accidents.

Juan Roberto Job, author of *Just Because I'm Latin Doesn't Mean I Mambo* writes that indeed it is the person that is able to "draw the spirit of his/her heritage to create a new culture that combines the best of both worlds." "Success" states Job, "is when Latinos can give back to the community." All communities would be richer should that be the norm. ★

ALANA Clubs & Organizations

ACA (Asian Cultural Awareness) has raised the bar for all of the cultural clubs. With the president for a second year in a row, Kaoru Utada, and the ACA E-board, ACA sponsored the Samurai Soul Sword Show, the ACA Luau, and more! (See Event: Highlights & Previews.)

ACA also takes its "show" on the road by attending leadership programs outside of Skidmore where they are able to meet and network with other Asian students. Expect ACA to rule in the Spring semester. In March, get ready to see efforts devoted to celebrating Asian culture and providing awareness on campus.

The month will culminate with annual ACA dinner, a monumental occasion that gets sold out every year.

Do you have your ticket yet? ☆



the 16th year anniversary of Raices at Skidmore. Co-presidents are Jennifer "J'lee" Maldonado and Emmanuel "Manny" Jesus.

Next semester the club will celebrate Dominican Independence Day and Exit 15, the elaborate hip-hop party in the gym. ☆

Raices, the Latino organization on campus, had a fabulous 1st semester. They celebrated Latino Heritage Month in November. This is

The 7 Principles of Kwanzaa

1. Umoja (Unity)
2. Kujichagula (Self-determination)
3. Ujima (Collective work and responsibility)
4. Ujamaa (Cooperative economics)
5. Nia (purpose)
6. Kuumba (creativity)
7. Imani (faith)

UJIMA and S.O.C.I.E.T.Y. united to celebrate Kwanzaa at the annual dinner on December 10th at the Inter-cultural Center.

Festivities started when leaders of UJIMA and SOCIETY explained Kwanzaa and why it is an important holiday in the lives of African Americans. Then members of UJIMA and the Director of MSA recited the seven principles of Kwanzaa (see left).

Students were able to learn the impor-

tance of Kwanza while enjoying delicious food from Hattie's Restaurant. ☆



The ACA-licious Crew



Who are these good looking guys?

Check out the MSA website and click on the ACA link to find out!

SPECIAL OFFER!

ALANA Club Membership

- Wouldn't you like to be a part in the clubs above?
- Tired of the old crowd?
- Want to share in the planning and participation of fun activities and extraordinary events?

✓ Check out the "clubs and orgs" board on the 2nd Floor of Case and we will see you at the next meeting!



Black History Month

- February 2: Black Solidarity Day (ribbons to be distributed). UJIMA/MSA
- February 2: Keynote Speaker, bell hooks (Gannett Auditorium at 7pm). UJIMA/MSA
- February 9: Latinos & African Americans in the Media (MOCHA House at 7pm).
- February 14: Food for Heart and Soul "Jazz Fest" (Wiecking Hall Seminar Room at 7:30pm, \$3). UJIMA
- February 20: Lenelle Moise: Spoken Word-Race & Sexuality (Gannett at 7pm). UJIMA/Spa
- February 21: Fashion & Talent Show (JKB at 7, \$5) UJIMA
- February 24: Film: Minorities & Politics. Voting Club & UJIMA

February 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29						

Committee on Cultural Pluralism's

ALANA CONFERENCE

February 28, 2004

at State University of New York at Albany

EVENT Highlights & Previews

FALL 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

The MSA director planned several activities and events for ALANA students and the Skidmore community which were successful (more of this on back page).

Also, many great events were planned with the MSA and ALANA organizations working together (see page 4). Others of note were:

ACA

ACA dinner, excursion through the Corn Maze.

RAICES

Inca Son: Music from the Andes, a panel discussion on the sexuality of Latinos, Café con Leche (student

talent showcase), and the Annual Latino Banquet.

UJIMA

Caribbean Awareness Week (Professor led discussion on Carnaval, Student Exhibit at Case, Film Series, Dinner).

Spring 2004 PREVIEWS

MSA: 2-Day Diversity Workshop w/Jonathan Farley, et. al.

S.O.A.R.: Diversity Lecture

SPA: Lecture Series

UJIMA: bell hooks



Ms. bell hooks



Dr. Jonathan Farley

In the News MLK, jr. the Day...the Man

Martin Luther King, Jr., for even those on.. say MARS (also very much “in the news”), is remembered for his extraordinary accomplishments at what was then a not so “ordinary” time in the lives of millions of Blacks (African Americans) and (people of color, ALANAs) in the U.S.

Since there is a celebration of the man, it is fitting to remember his accomplishments at a time when Black men, in general, were not treated or respected as men. Who could not give respect and hold in awe this man, this “colored” man who in the segregated era of America...

- Attended Morehouse College, in Atlanta, at age 15 and was ordained to preach at age 19.
- Was featured on the cover of *Time* magazine at age 28.
- Met with his third President (JFK, the other 2—VP Nixon and Eisenhower) at age 33.
- Gained audience with the Pope (Paul VI) at the Vatican at age 35.
- Received Nobel Prize also at age 35.

What more could Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. accomplish if he were to have seen his 40th birthday? It is for these accomplishments and in sorrow for the world’s lost of such a great communicator and passionate voice of equality that he is remembered each

year in every state of the union and internationally.

MLK, Jr. was a man for all people. For all those who appreciated that separate in the U.S. was unequal. He was unafraid to give voice in opposition to the highest courts in the land which deemed it appropriate for “certain” children to be less educated. His dream was a dream that all people regardless of background and irrespective of class would continue to dream for their children...to be free...at last.

Skidmore shows full recognition of the necessity to educate all students, by administration’s continuing support of programs like HEOP and AOP which enable students from varied backgrounds and cultures to receive a valuable Skidmore education. It is by way of these programs that the majority of ALANA (African American, Latino/Hispanic, Asian American and Native American) students are able to achieve great success in their studies. Without such programs accepting high performing students to Skidmore would be made more difficult. The result would be a lack of participation of ALANA student organizations, which at this time, is a great organizer of cultural activities and events.

Since “education is freedom” and Skidmore recognizes this importance by not only supporting valuable programs, but positions like MSA director and admissions coordinator, why is MLK, Jr. Day not a “holiday?” “Creative Thought Matters,” is Skidmore’s new

slogan, so perhaps it is time that we at Skidmore become even more *creative*, “in action.”

Should Skidmore begin to put its “creative thought” regarding diversity into “creative action” the administrators could...

- create an action plan for obtaining an even more diverse campus population than which we currently enjoy;
- open campus dialogue on terms and their usage institutionally, such as “minority,” “of color,” “inter/multicultural,” and “ALANA;” and
- Allow for MLK, Jr.’s day to be off so that it may become a real day of celebration of his memory and *all of our dreams*.

Now talk about accomplishments! ☆



www.thekingcenter.com

S.O.C.I.E.T.Y. & MOCHA—Not just “tea” parties & chocolate

Few students know that there are resources for men and women of color at Skidmore. That is because for a while these organizations were inactive. Now they are back and running under Multicultural Student Affairs.

S.O.C.I.E.T.Y. (Sisters of Color Independently Educating Themselves and You) and MOCHA (Men Of Color Have Arrived) are responsible for sponsoring programs that allow men and women of color on campus to meet one another and serve as mentors. Many of their members take part

ALANA 1st Year

Mentorship Program

Stop in and sign up!

Don't be left out in the cold...brrrrgghh!

MSA @ Case 226

in the MSA-sponsored membership program (see left). They will be attending movies, host discussion groups, and generally “be” there for their mentees.

Next semester both S.O.C.I.E.T.Y. and MOCHA will sponsor programs that will encourage first year students to participate as leaders. S.O.C.I.E.T.Y. and MOCHA have houses in Scribner Village and sponsor cultural activities and off-campus excursions. For more info stop by the MSA office (Case 226) this semester. ☆



MSA STAFF

Director, Kimberly Erwin

Student Assistants
Ivonne Salazar '04
Jonathan Vallejo '04
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Courtnei Evans '05

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Diversity is the key element for the continuation of humanity.

MSA looks to work with all students and student groups in activities and event programming throughout the school year.

**Calling all students
artists, writers,
and budding pub-
lishers.**

MSA needs **YOU** for the
March issue!

Let us know what you
want in the next issue.

**Deadline for March
issue: Feb 25**

Set up an appt to speak with the director about your ideas today!

X 5763, Case 226

Multicultural Student Affairs (a new 'tude)

To get the new "'tude" (attitude, that is), first Skidmore sought a name change for the Office. The Multicultural Office was renamed "Multicultural Student Affairs."

Multicultural Student Affairs (MSA) (Case 226) is located next to the Intercultural Center (and other multicultural offices like those of the Chaplain and Associate Director of the Intercultural Center, Stephen Murray Butler (Case 226b) and a short walk down the hall from Rabbi Linda Motzkin's office which she shares with the Coordinator of Jewish Student Life and Programming (Case 224) and the Coordinator of Catholic Student Life, Catherine Minnerly's office (Case 226).

In the Multi/Intercultural "Corridor," you may find the "new" MSA director, Ms. Kimberly Erwin, at her desk, on the phone, or hosting students...but usually more so at night! Already, she has the reputation for working far past the 4:30pm "bell."

It is no wonder, below are the lists of activities that the MSA hosted in the Fall

2003 term (along with other important people and departments on campus).

- MCNR—Fri Oct 24, '03, NYC-- supported by the Jennings (Parent Council) (**Mike Profita, Megan Baumgartner**)
- ALANA E-board Retreat—(I & II) Sun Sep 28 & Dec 4
- 1st Year ALANA Reception—Mon Oct 3
- 1st ALANA mentoring reception—Tues Nov 18
- Centennial Weekend Open House—Sat Oct 18

Also, the MSA supported other multicultural student entities. Like the very important *Sex in the City Marathon*—Fri Dec 5 for the **Multicultural Floor**.

Kimberly has found time to attend other multi/intercultural engagements, a brief list of the activities and events attended are:

- CHINA tea tasting w/**Birgit Linder** from Asian Studies
- Int'l Week Reception—Nov 17 (**Office of International Programs**)
- Women Studies Dinner—Mon. Oct 24 (host, **Adrienne Zuerner**)
- International Student Reception—Aug 29 (host, **Barbara Opitz**)

Kimberly has stated that all the events listed and the many more in which she was invited to speak were enjoyable. She adds, "It allows me the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life. This is my love." Obviously so, since she graduated from Spelman College with a bachelor's in French and from the University of Pennsylvania with a Master's in Intercultural Communication...did we mention her time spent in Germany as an international programs counselor?...*to be continued.* ★